



AVIAN INFLUENZA (H5N1)

Commander, Navy Installations (CNI) – Supporting the Warfighter



AVIAN INFLUENZA (H5N1)

AVIAN FLU

- ❖ An infection caused by avian (bird) influenza (flu) viruses that occurs naturally among some species of birds
- ❖ Avian flu viruses do not **usually** infect humans, but human infection with bird flu has been documented
- ❖ Most documented cases result from direct or close contact with infected birds or contaminated surfaces

Concern: While influenza epidemics occur around the world every year, some experts are concerned that this strain of avian flu could mutate into a new form capable of causing a pandemic



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PREVENTION

- ❖ There is currently no specific vaccine for the H5N1 strain of avian flu
 - Development underway by NIH and others
- ❖ Antiviral medication exists, oseltamivir (Tamiflu), but is in short supply
- ❖ There are a number of measures that can be taken to prevent infection

Individuals and Families:

- Practice good hand hygiene
- Remain several feet away from people who exhibit signs of respiratory illness
- Keep plenty of food and supplies available
- Maintain awareness of public news and warning notifications
- Remain self-contained when feeling ill

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PREVENTION

BUSINESSES:

- Maintain awareness of public news and warning notifications
- Develop or update emergency plans
- Work with health officials on ways to protect employees
- Identify essential personnel and look to alternative work methods (tele-commuting)

COMMUNITIES:

- Review available resources that are in place
- Build upon emergency plans in preparation for an illness outbreak
- Identify potential barriers in communication and medical care

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THE NAVY RESPONSE

- ❖ Currently, BUMED and CNI are working together through an Avian Influenza Working Group to construct formal preparedness packages for avian influenza

Efforts include...

- Updating Continuity of Operations (COOP) and Emergency Operations Center (EOC) plans
- Establishing Regional and installation EM working groups
- Designating Regional and installation Public Health Emergency Officers (PHEO)
- Forming recommendations on stockpiling food and supplies

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REGIONAL AND INSTALLATION RESPONSE

❖ Regional and installation leadership should begin taking the following measures to prepare for avian flu

- Identify and coordinate efforts through Regional PHEO
- Update/develop Regional/Installation COOP and EOC plans
- Develop/update Fire & Emergency Services plans
- Develop/update Emergency Management plans
- Participate in EM working groups
- Participate in pandemic influenza preparedness exercises
- Update AT plans

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ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

❖ For more information, visit the following websites

<http://www.pandemicflu.gov/>

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/pandemic>

<http://www.who.int/csr/en>

http://www.deploymentlink.osd.mil/medical/medical_issues/immun/avian_flu.shtml

http://www-nehc.med.navy.mil/prevmed/PM/PM_AvianFlu.htm

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